

ESSENTIAL NCLEX® MEDS BY CLASS

CLASS / EXAMPLES	MAJOR NURSING CONSIDERATIONS
ANALGESICS	
Aspirin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not give with other anticoagulants Stop taking before surgery Do not give to children with viral infection (Reye's Syndrome)
NSAIDs (Ibuprofen)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contraindicated with GI ulcers
Opioids (Morphine)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respiratory depressant Antidote: Naloxone
ANTICONVULSANTS	
Dilantin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gum hyperplasia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular dental check-ups Monitor therapeutic levels
ANTI-INFLAMMATORY	
Prednisone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cushing-like symptoms Immunosuppression Hyperglycemia Osteoporosis
ANTICOAGULANT	
Heparin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> aPTT Antidote: Protamine Sulfate
Warfarin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PT / INR Antidote: Vitamin K
ANTI-PARKINSONIAN	
Benzotropine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treats extrapyramidal symptoms
Carbidopa/Levodopa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective in the absence of tremors
BETA BLOCKERS	
Propranolol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not stop abruptly Masks signs of hypoglycemia
POTASSIUM SUPPLEMENTS	
Potassium Chloride	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check labs prior to administration NEVER give IV push Caution with K+ sparing diuretic Do not give with renal failure
BRONCHODILATOR	
Theophylline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor therapeutic levels
Albuterol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor for tachycardia & tremors May also decrease potassium levels

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CARDIAC GLYCO SIDE	
Digoxin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Toxicity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visual changes (yellow/green halo) Loss of appetite Assess apical pulse for a full minute prior to administration
ANTI-ECLAMPTIC	
Magnesium Sulfate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used in Preeclampsia Monitor deep tendon reflexes Assess for respiratory depression Seizure precautions
DIURETICS	
Furosemide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potassium wasting Monitor Potassium Levels (↓K+)
Spironolactone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potassium sparing Monitor Potassium Levels (↑K+)
PSYCHOTROPICS	
Lithium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Therapeutic Range 0.8-1.2 ↑fluid intake
MAOI's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid foods with Tyramine → aged cheeses, wine
Disulfiram	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid alcohol intake of any kind (mouthwash, OTC cough syrups)
OBSTETRICS	
Oxytocin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess uterus for tetanic contraction (constant) Monitor Fetal Heart Rate
Terbutaline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tocolytic (stop contractions) Don't give before 20 weeks Monitor Fetal Heart Rate
ANTIFUNGAL	
Amphotericin B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IVPB Slow Monitor for Renal Damage ↑ fluid intake Assess K+ and BUN Assess hearing
ANTICHOLINERGICS	
Atropine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GI - slows motility Eyes - dilates pupils (avoid in glaucoma) Cardiac - increase heart rate Resp - bronchodilation

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ONCOLOGICAL MEDICATIONS	
Chemotherapy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use extreme caution• Wear gloves and mask while mixing and administering
ANTI-GOUT	
Allopurinol	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase fluid intake• Avoid organ meats• Pt will have increased urine output
Colchicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• May cause bloody diarrhea if toxicity occurs
MIOTICS VS. MYDRIATICS	
Miotics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Constrict• Used with Glaucoma<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Allows for ↑ drainage of aqueous humor
Mydriatics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dilate• Avoid with Glaucoma - increased intraocular pressure